

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 9 as follows, in the following complete listing of all claims:

1. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED)
2. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED)
3. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED)
4. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED)
5. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED)
6. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED)
7. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED)
8. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED)
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A vessel for containing a heated beverage, said vessel comprising:

a substantially vertical wall having an inner surface in contact with the beverage fluid and an outer surface,

a fluid retaining bottom united with said substantially vertical wall for containing the beverage fluid in the vessel,

a thermochromic display disposed on the outer surface of said substantially horizontal wall, said thermochromic display being characterized by:

i. A plurality of thermochromic ink segments wherein each segment is comprised of the following:

a. a layer of thermochromic ink wherein said layer of thermochromic ink has the following characteristics:

possesses four threshold temperatures herein referred to as the first threshold temperature, the second threshold temperature, the third threshold temperature and the fourth threshold temperature, where the second threshold temperature is greater than or equal to the first threshold temperature, the fourth threshold temperature is greater than the second threshold temperature, and the third threshold

temperature is both less than or equal to the fourth threshold temperature and greater than the first threshold temperature.

is substantially opaque when possessing a temperature that is below the first threshold temperature.

is substantially transparent when possessing a temperature that is above the fourth threshold temperature.

has a partially opaque, partially transparent appearance when possessing a temperature that is greater than the second threshold temperature but less than the fourth threshold temperature, when said temperature has been achieved by the continuous heating of the thermochromic ink layer from a temperature below the first threshold temperature to said temperature and with the ratio of opaqueness to transparency decreasing with said temperature's proximity to the fourth threshold temperature.

has a partially opaque, partially transparent appearance when possessing a temperature that is greater than the first threshold temperature but less than the third threshold temperature, when said temperature has been achieved by the continuous cooling of the thermochromic ink layer from a temperature above the fourth threshold temperature to said temperature and with the ratio of opaqueness to transparency increasing with said temperature's proximity to the first threshold temperature.

b. a temperature indicating mark, image or message disposed between the outer surface of the vessel wall and the layer of thermochromic ink.

ii. at least one thermochromic ink segment possessing a thermochromic ink layer whose threshold temperatures differ from the threshold temperatures of the thermochromic ink layer of at least one other thermochromic ink segment.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). a beverage containing vessel according to claim 9 wherein the thermochromic display is directly printed onto the outer surface of the vessel.

11.(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 9 wherein the thermochromic display further comprises a supporting substrate for subsequent attachment to the vessel.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 11 wherein the supporting substrate is attached with an adhesive layer.

13.(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 9 wherein said wall of said vessel comprises a ceramic.

14.(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 10 wherein said wall of said vessel comprises a ceramic.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 11 wherein said wall of said vessel comprises a ceramic.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 12 wherein said wall of said vessel comprises a ceramic.